

# How to set up a device with safety in mind



Before young children begin to explore online, it is a good idea to activate safety features, filters and parental controls on the devices they use.

**No parental control or safe search filter is 100% effective. Helping your child build good online safety habits is just as important.**

## **Password protect devices**

Add a password or passcode, that only you know, to any device your child uses. If a device uses fingerprint or face authentication, don't set this up for your child. It is important that you control and have access to all devices that your child uses.

## **Parental controls and shared accounts**

Parental controls are software tools that allow you to monitor and limit what your child sees and does online. They could be specific to different devices, such as mobiles, tablets, computers, gaming consoles and smart TVs, or they may be available in different apps or programs, such as streaming services, web browsers and search engines. Parental controls may also be available on your home wi-fi network.

If a device, app or service is shared by multiple members of your family, you may be able to change the filters or privacy settings to reflect each user's age and skills. This is often done through a 'family' or shared account.

## **Parental controls and shared accounts can be set up to do things like:**

**Block** — you may be able to block your child from accessing specific websites, apps or functions (like using a device's camera or buying things online).

**Filter** — you may be able to restrict access to different kinds of content, such as 'adult' or inappropriate content.

**Monitor** — you may be able to monitor your child's use of connected devices or apps, with reports on the content they access and the sites they visit, including how often and for how long.



## Be safe



## Be kind



## Ask for help



## Make good choices

### Safe search

We all use search engines to find information online, and so do our children, but with that open access comes the risk of seeing inappropriate material.

There are a number of child-friendly search engines like Google Safe Search ([www.safesearchkids.com](http://www.safesearchkids.com)) and Kiddle ([www.kiddle.co](http://www.kiddle.co)).

In most search engines, such as Google, Bing and Yahoo, you can activate 'SafeSearch' to filter search results, so they don't include inappropriate or explicit content like pornography.

### Screen time monitors

Screen time monitors allow you to set time limits that block your child's access to a device, app or online service after a set period of time.

Alarm clocks, kitchen timers and stop watches work just as well, and can be a useful way of involving your child in setting time limits.

### Safety tips

**Use bookmarks** — set up bookmarks in the web browser your child uses. This may help minimise the risk of them coming across unsuitable websites and content.

**Set up a folder** — on shared devices, set up a folder of apps or programs that are suitable for your child to use.

**Airplane mode** — turn on airplane or flight mode on Apple and Android mobile devices to restrict access to some online services.

### Step-by-step guides

For more information on setting up devices safely go to [esafety.gov.au/parents/skills-advice/taming-technology](http://esafety.gov.au/parents/skills-advice/taming-technology).



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[esafety.gov.au/early-years](https://esafety.gov.au/early-years)